

accommodates the number of people in residence. A snack bar provides light meals.

Room and board are covered by a comprehensive fee which is *not* refundable. We cannot make reductions for any meals not eaten at Bread Loaf. The first meal served at the Conference will be lunch on Tuesday, August 11th; the last will be breakfast on Sunday, August 23rd. Rooms must be vacated on the 23rd by 11:00 a.m.

If you wish to live off-campus, you should so indicate when you apply. We will make available to admitted Conference members a directory of housing in the area which can be rented for the Conference session. Rental arrangements are up to the individual.

#### DATES

The Conference will begin on Tuesday, August 11th, and will end on Sunday, August 23rd.

#### FEES

Tuition	(contributors):	\$360
	(participants):	330
Room and Board		180
Total	(contributors):	\$540
	(participants):	\$510

At the time of admission we require a *non-refundable* deposit of \$50, which will be credited toward tuition fees. The deposit is payable within two weeks after an applicant receives notification of acceptance, and will hold a place at the Conference until July 15th. Bills for the balance of the fees will be mailed on June 15th, and will be payable by July 15th. A Conference member who has not paid his/her fees in full by July 15th will forfeit both deposit and his/her place at the Conference.

#### FINANCIAL AID

The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference offers three types of financial aid: fellowships, tuition scholarships and working scholarships. All are awarded in competition on the basis of submitted manuscript; all are given only to people attending a full session of the Conference. We have no provisions for supporting independent writing projects.

Fellowships pay full tuition, room and board at the Conference. A candidate must be nominated by an editor, publisher, literary agent, teacher of creative writing or a well-known writer, and must have had one book published or accepted for publication (privately printed books are not accepted). Upon receipt of a nominating letter, we will notify the candidate of the nomination and send him/her an application to complete. The candidate or his/her nominator must supply us with a copy of the published

book, or the galleys or typescript of it, in support of the application.

Nominations must be made by March 1st, and applications, with supporting material, must reach the Conference office by April 1st. Nominations by phone cannot be accepted.

Since the purpose of the fellowships is to provide assistance to writers just beginning their publishing careers, we will not usually consider applicants who have published more than two books in the *genre* in which they are applying. A candidate, for instance, might have published several works of poetry, but if he/she had a first book of fiction published, we would consider an application for a fellowship in fiction.

Tuition scholarships pay tuition, but not room and board. Candidates must have had their work published in recognized national periodicals or university journals, but must not have had a book published. Procedures and deadlines for nomination and application are the same as for fellowship candidates.

Candidates for both fellowships and scholarships should have only *one* letter of nomination sent. Manuscripts sent in support of an application must be in the *genre* in which an author has been published. For example, a book of poems will not support an application in fiction. Recipients of awards are expected to bring to Bread Loaf for criticism work in the *genre* in which they have been accepted.

Working scholarships provide room and board at the Conference, and pay all but \$100 of the tuition fees. Recipients work as waiters and waitresses in the dining room. Neither nomination nor publication is necessary, but manuscript submitted in support of an application must show special promise. Applications for working scholarships should be made by May 15th.

The financial aid awards are made primarily on the basis of the work submitted. If you apply for financial aid but would like to be considered for admission even if you do not receive an award, you should so indicate on your application.

All recipients of financial aid are contributors and are expected to bring work in progress to Bread Loaf for staff criticism. All candidates for financial aid, including those who have already been accepted as contributors, will be notified of the results of the competition by the middle of June.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence concerning admission, fees, travel, etc., should be addressed to: Writers' Conference, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt. 05753. Telephone: (until 8/10) 802-388-4167; (after 8/10) 802-388-7946.

*Middlebury College*

# 1981 Bread Loaf Writers' Conference





## ADMINISTRATION

Olin C. Robison, President of Middlebury College

Robert Pack, Director

Stanley Bates, Administrative Director

Carol Knauss, Secretary

Editorial and Admissions Board: Robert Pack, Stanley Bates, Elizabeth Mansfield, Gary Margolis, Carol Knauss

## HISTORY

The Writers' Conference convenes annually at Middlebury College's Bread Loaf campus which is located in the Green Mountain National Forest of Vermont, at the foot of Bread Loaf Mountain. The campus is a sprawling complex of Victoriana, built in the nineteenth century by Joseph Battell, who had acquired thousands of mountain acres. The Conference began in 1926 as a special short course in creative writing added to the program of the summer school of English, but by 1929 the Conference had achieved its own identity.

The buildings at Bread Loaf have been modernized, and the road up the mountain has been paved. Despite such concessions to convenience, the campus has changed little in the past fifty years. The rambling three-story Inn with its central dining hall; the huge barn with its fieldstone fireplace and wicker chairs; the clusters of lawn chairs about the grounds; and the assorted outlying cottages: all are much as they were when the Conference began.

For over half a century some of the best known names in American literature have studied or taught at the Conference — Robert Frost, Stephen Vincent Benét, Jessamyn West, Archibald MacLeish, John Crowe Ransom, Wallace Stegner, John P. Marquand, May Sarton, Saul Bellow, Richard Wilbur.

## PROGRAM

The purpose of the Conference is to provide an opportunity for sustained dialogue among writers. The Conference membership includes writers at all levels: some just beginning, some who want to begin, some returning to writing after many years of doing other things, some with published work. You should think of the Conference not as a place where you write, but where you talk with colleagues about writing, as a craft, hobby, trade and profession. Through lectures, discussion groups, workshops, panels and readings, the craft of writing poetry and prose is discussed along with related topics, including the editing of manuscripts, submission of work to publishers,

author/agent/editor relationships and the teaching of writing.

The Conference staff consists of professional writers who are also effective teachers. In residence in 1981 will be six poets and eight prose writers, and eight staff assistants, writers who have had at least one book published and who also are teachers of writing. The staff assistants assist staff members in discussion groups and workshops and read contributors' manuscripts. In addition, there will be visiting editors, publishers and authors' agents, who will offer lectures and panels, and who will be available for informal talk with Bread Loafers. In recent years visitors have included David R. Godine (The Godine Press, Inc.), Jean Naggar (authors' representative), Walter Goodman (Educational Television), Paul Gray (*Time*), Eileen Schnurr (*Redbook*) and Richard Marek (Richard Marek Books).

The Conference schedule divides in two parts. During the first half, each staff member will speak about writing as a craft or skill, and will conduct discussion groups in some aspect of craft. During the second half, the emphasis shifts from theory to practice as workshops in poetry, fiction, nonfiction and writing for children convene to consider contributors' manuscripts. Each contributor will meet with the staff member or staff assistant who has read his/her manuscript. This private conference is a close critique of a limited amount of material.

## ADMISSION

**1. Contributors.** Those who wish to bring manuscript for criticism by staff members should apply for admission as contributors. They are asked to submit, at the time of application, examples of the kind of writing for which they will later expect staff criticism. Contributors should submit writing in only *one genre*. The Conference will consider poetry, fiction, nonfiction and writing for children. (The Directors reserve the right to limit the material submitted at the Conference for criticism.)

**2. Participants.** Those who wish to apply as participants need not send manuscript with their application, and they do not bring manuscript to Bread Loaf for staff criticism. Like contributors, they are invited to participate actively in all panels, discussion groups and workshops during the Conference.

Both contributors and participants are subject to selection. Early application is desirable, although it does not in itself guarantee admission. The basis of admission for a contributor will be the examples of work submitted in support of the application. About a dozen poems, two or three short stories or articles, three chapters of a novel (a short synopsis is helpful), or two or three stories for children should accompany an application. Admitted first will be those who, in the judgment of the Admissions Board, show *potential* as writers. No one should assume that acceptance as a contributor is a step to literary

discovery and fame. A writer who has submitted an apprentice manuscript may be admitted if the Admissions Board thinks the author might profit from staff criticism. At the Conference, the staff critic will try to identify weaknesses and strengths in the manuscripts, and will suggest what might be done to improve the writing. The improvement itself is the author's responsibility; what he or she learns, it is hoped, will be helpful in future literary efforts.

The basis for admission as a participant will be evidence an applicant offers of serious literary interest, such as published work or active concern with writing or the teaching or editing of writing or literature.

All applicants should return the completed application form to: Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753. All manuscripts must be clearly typewritten and will be returned *only* if accompanied by a self-addressed envelope and full postage. Return address should be full and clear. Because some time may pass before manuscripts can be returned, applicants should keep copies. The Conference assumes no responsibility for lost manuscripts.

Applications are accepted only for the whole session. No reduction of rates is offered for part-time attendance. The Conference reserves the right to request the withdrawal of any member.

The restrictions of space at Bread Loaf make it impossible for us to accommodate guests or families of Conference members. Applicants under 18 cannot be considered for admission.

## ROOM AND BOARD

Rooms will be ready for occupancy on Tuesday, August 11th. Because the number of applications far exceed the housing facilities at Bread Loaf, early application is suggested. Bread Loafers are housed in buildings on the mountain; all of these are in walking distance of each other, but the campus does spread out over two miles. We need to know, when you apply, if you plan to bring a car so that we can make suitable housing assignments.

Bread Loafers must be prepared to accept roommates. Most of the rooms at Bread Loaf are doubles; few have private baths. We make every effort to ensure that roommates will be compatible, and, in fact, some life-long friendships develop between Bread Loaf roommates. Since the Conference lasts only for twelve days, and since you spend relatively little time (we hope) in your room, having a roommate should not be a difficulty.

Meals are served at stated hours in the dining room of the Bread Loaf Inn, which is operated and staffed by Middlebury College under the supervision of a dietitian. No provisions can be made for persons requiring special diets. Bread Loafers who live off-campus should not expect to have meals in the dining room, since it only